

Journal of Food Law & Policy

Volume 1 | Number 1

Article 4

2005

Introduction

Journal Editors

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Recommended Citation

Editors, J. (2021). Introduction. *Journal of Food Law & Policy*, 1(1). Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.uark.edu/jflp/vol1/iss1/4>

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Introduction

It is with great pride and pleasure that we present the inaugural issue of the *Journal of Food Law & Policy*. The *Journal* is the first student-edited law journal in the nation exclusively devoted to the study of food law and policy. It is also the second journal published by the University of Arkansas School of Law, providing its student contributors with invaluable experience. The *Journal* complements the law school's long-standing and respected Graduate Program in Agricultural Law and the National Agricultural Law Center, as well as Northwest Arkansas's unique and thriving food industry.

Coinciding with the increasing world-wide attention given to food systems, the *Journal* will provide an important forum for an international and diverse audience of scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and organizations concerned with food law and policy. Special attention will be given to global food law developments, with updates on various world regions. The first issue features updates on recent food law developments in the United States and Europe.

We are pleased that the inaugural edition for the *Journal* also features several important and timely articles, including an insightful piece introducing the topic of food law and policy by Peter Barton Hutt. Mr. Hutt is a Senior Counsel at the law firm Covington & Burling, a lecturer on Food and Drug Law at Harvard Law School, and a well-respected scholar and practitioner of food law. His article explores the role of food law in historical and contemporary societies, providing a distinctive launching pad for thoughtful food law and policy scholarship.

The *Journal* appreciates the sponsorship of the *Excellence in Writing Award* by one of the nation's most prestigious law firms, Arent Fox PLLC, in honor of former U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers, who currently serves as counsel at the firm. Senator Bumpers is well-known for his long and distinguished career in public service in the U.S. Senate and as Governor of Arkansas. A lifelong champion of agricultural and food development in Arkansas and the nation, Senator Bumpers is renowned for his commitment to education and scholarship. The

award, in the form of a \$1,000 cash prize, will be presented each year to the outstanding student article published in the *Journal*.

Credit and appreciation must also be extended to various individuals who have advised, encouraged, and aided the *Journal* from its beginning. It is possible here to acknowledge only a few: Dean Richard B. Atkinson, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Carol R. Goforth, Professor Lonnie R. Beard (faculty advisor to the *Journal*), Robert B. Leflar (member of the faculty *Journal* committee), and the staff at the National Agricultural Law Center. A special thanks is also owed to members of the law school faculty for their approval of the *Journal's* creation and for their assistance in guiding the *Journal* to this stage. Finally, a very special thanks is owed to the student editors and members of the *Journal* who have worked tirelessly and devotedly to the success of the *Journal*. Their commitment to excellence has been inspiring and sets a precedent for future student editors to follow.

Michael T. Roberts
Research Professor of Law
Director, National Agricultural Law Center
Faculty Advisor

Margie Alsbrook
Founding Editor-in-Chief

